

January 2009

## DeKalb County Moves Forward With Multiple Library Projects

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### Recommended Citation

(2009) "DeKalb County Moves Forward With Multiple Library Projects," *Georgia Library Quarterly*: Vol. 46 : Iss. 1 , Article 11.  
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# DeKalb County Moves Forward With Multiple Library Projects

Since local voters approved a \$54.5 million bond referendum in 2005, DeKalb County Public Library has broken ground on four projects, with five others in various stages of design.

The first project now under construction, a replacement of the Toco Hill – Avis G. Williams Library, is unique, because the architect has designed a Zen-like structure that fits harmoniously into the wooded area it occupies. To maximize the view yet minimize the human footprint, the architect designed the building with three glass storefront walls that face the woods and moved some of the parking spaces underground. This and other construction projects are being built with LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) goals in mind, making a smaller impact on the environment than traditional construction.

Besides being beautiful inside and out, this 18,200-square-foot structure will have more books, computers, meeting rooms, an expanded children’s area — and, for the first time, a teen area and a computer lab. The projected opening date is May.

Just a few miles away, the Northlake – Barbara Loar Library is getting a much-needed renovation and expansion. The library is being expanded from 10,000 to 15,000 square feet, allowing room for an enlarged children’s area, 10 additional computers and a new teen area. Northlake is projected to open in June.

Like Toco, the Tucker – Reid H. Cofer Library is a replacement project. Besides being moved to a more visible and convenient location, the new library will be twice the size of

the old library. It will have a collection of 82,000 items, a 150-seat meeting room and 42 public-access computers. Additionally, when this library opens in December, it will include a small café.

The Stonecrest Library will be a new library with a lodgelike design and features, including a large fireplace. Its size and features will be similar to the Tucker Library, except it will also provide a 175-seat auditorium and a 75-seat multipurpose room. It has a January 2010 projected opening.

The five other library projects now in design are Embry Hills Library, Hairston Crossing Library, Salem-Panola Library, Scott Candler Library and Ellenwood Library. For more information, visit the library’s Web site at <http://www.dekalblibrary.org/branches/new-libraries>. ►►

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